

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 836

By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Christopher Smith
Person on his many accomplishments.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in honoring those outstanding young Tennesseans who have proven their worth, both as scholars and citizens, at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Smith Person of Memphis is one such outstanding young man who has distinguished himself among his peers; and

WHEREAS, a sophomore at Ridgeway High School, Christopher is a fixture on the Honor Roll there, and he was recently inducted into the school's chapter of the National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, selection for membership in the National Honor Society is a great honor; a potential member must possess at least a 3.8 cumulative grade point average; if he or she meets the scholastic criteria, final selection is based upon careful consideration by the school's Faculty Council of the student's overall "Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character"; and

WHEREAS, the son of Senator Curtis Person and Mrs. Geraldean Person, Christopher also serves astutely as the Sophomore Editor of Ridgeway High School's Yearbook; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many accomplishments in the academic realm, Christopher is a genuine computer expert and a dedicated Gamer; he is adept at numerous games included in the Sony Play Station 2, Microsoft X-Box and Nintendo Game Cube collections, yet his new passion in computer technology is video editing; and

WHEREAS, Christopher is also an accomplished chess player; in 1995, he won the Memphis Scholastic Chess Grand Prix for his age group (D Group Overall) and participated with distinction in the year-end Tournament of Champions; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Person is also an extremely well-traveled young man at the tender age of eighteen, having visited historic places and exotic locales all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Christopher has visited Walt Disney World an amazing 18 times, always staying at the Polynesian Village Resort, Room 1504; and

WHEREAS, a Disney stockholder, Christopher is an avid collector of All Things Disney, including porcelains, cells and rare, limited edition Disney pins; in fact, he is known throughout Walt Disney World for his extensive knowledge of Disney pins and his expertise in pin trading; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Christopher and his parents attended the 40th anniversary celebration of Disneyland in California, and the next year they were in attendance at Disneyland Paris for the celebration of its 5th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, also in 1996, Christopher and his mother and father were featured in an article about "Super Fans" in a special edition of the *Disney Magazine*; in an even more exciting development, this young Disneyphile and his parents were selected by Disney on October 1, 1996, as one of only seventy families in the world to be honored as special guests of Disney during the five-day opening celebration of the 25th anniversary of Walt Disney World; and

WHEREAS, the Persons were treated like royalty and featured as "Super Fans" and honored guests at each of the Walt Disney World theme parks; this was truly a once in a lifetime experience for Christopher and his parents; and

WHEREAS, also in 1996, Christopher and his parents spent a memorable three weeks in the Golden State of California; after enjoying five fabulous days at Disneyland and the Disneyland Hotel, the Persons motored to San Diego, where they stayed several days at the historic Hotel Del Coronado on Coronado Island; over the years, the Hotel Del Coronado has been a favorite vacation spot for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, several American Presidents, and various other dignitaries; and

WHEREAS, Christopher and his parents next journeyed to Hollywood and then delighted in the scenic ocean drive as they drove farther up the breathtaking California coast on the Pacific Coast Highway (California State Route 1); along the way, they toured the Hearst Castle and stayed in Carmel, where they were awed and inspired by the many beautiful sights on the famous 17-Mile Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Persons next stop was the gorgeous Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco; from their exquisite suite on the 21st floor of the Fairmont, they enjoyed a spectacular view of the San Francisco Harbor, Alcatraz, and the Golden Gate Bridge; and

WHEREAS, after riding the world famous cable cars and visiting Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, and many other sections of the beautiful City By The Bay, Christopher and his parents returned home to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable young man spent nearly three weeks collectively in New York City during visits to the Big Apple in 2000 and 2001, both times staying at the New York Palace; and

WHEREAS, without a doubt the most exciting and broadening experience on Christopher's extensive travel itinerary is his 38-day trip to Europe in 1997, during which he visited England, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and France; and

WHEREAS, accompanied by his parents, his godparents, Dr. Patti Person Ray and Barry Ray, his maternal aunts, Jane Smith Reese and Susan Smith Brite, and a host of friends and fellow Memphians, Christopher enjoyed a wide range of memorable cultural experiences, from his sobering visit to Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery at this D-Day Invasion Site, to his exciting trip from Paris to London on the Eurostar or "Chunnel Train," travelling at great speed, but also great comfort, miles beneath the English Channel; and

WHEREAS, during his sojourn in Paris, Christopher was entertained by French Senators Jean Bizet and Jean-Francois Le Grand at the Palais de Luxembourg, which was built in 1615 as a residence for Marie de Medici; during World War II it was used as the headquarters for the Luftwaffe; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bizet graciously served as guide for the Person family during their special tour of the Palais de Luxembourg, which houses the French Senate's Chambers; Christopher was honored to sit in the Senate President's chair and have his picture made with his parents and Senator Bizet; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bizet and Senator Le Grand then hosted a delicious luncheon for Christopher and his family in the Senators' private dining room in this beautiful palace; this delightful meal was concluded with the presentation (and consumption) of a special cake to celebrate Senator and Mrs. Person's 24th wedding anniversary, compliments of the two good Senators; and

WHEREAS, after tasting the many delights of Paris and experiencing its spectacular beauty from atop the Eiffel Tower some 1,000 feet above The City of Light, Christopher and his party took the TGV or "Bullet Train" to Avignon in the Provence region of southern France, where they stayed at the Hotel D'Europe; the first guest at this historic hotel was Napoleon I; and

WHEREAS, while visiting the lovely Normandie region of France, Christopher and his family visited the summit of Mont-Saint-Michel; located off the Normandie coast, this rocky islet

and famous sanctuary is crowned by an abbey built in the 7th century and is truly one of the wonders of the world; and

WHEREAS, Christopher recorded an exciting personal experience with great historical significance during his visit to the Normandie town of Bayeux, the home of William the Conqueror and the first Normandie coastal town liberated by Allied Forces on D-Day; and

WHEREAS, during the Persons' sojourn in Bayeux, the Persons hosted a luncheon for various French dignitaries at the Hotel Le Lion d'or, which served as U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters during the fateful Battle of Normandie; the private luncheon was held in the very room where General Eisenhower made the earth-shattering decisions that ensured the survival and eventual prosperity of the Allied nations for the remainder of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, before the luncheon began, the owner of the Hotel Le Lion d'or presented Christopher with the actual key to General Eisenhower's personal office at the headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Christopher was flabbergasted, yet greatly pleased, to be presented with this genuine piece of history and valuable collector's item, and he will treasure it always; and

WHEREAS, after departing Bayeux, Christopher and his family next visited the Normandie town of Saint-Mere-Eglise, where they were greeted with open arms by Count Jean d' Angieux; and

WHEREAS, the Count graciously took the Persons on a tour of his beautiful ancestral chateau, in which he obviously took a great deal of pride; and

WHEREAS, Christopher was thrilled and awed to visit the very room and sit at the very desk where the Germans signed the Surrender of Normandie during World War II; and

WHEREAS, during their visit to London, Christopher and his parents visited the antique market on the world famous Portobello Road, where Christopher demonstrated great initiative in purchasing the key to a 16th century castle; and

WHEREAS, it was also on Portobello Road that Christopher began collecting coins; he bargained and haggled like a seasoned trader for the purchase of two 2nd Century BC coins known as "widow's mites," to the amazement of his parents and the consternation of the merchant; and

WHEREAS, these are but six of the many exciting and rewarding experiences that Christopher and his family accumulated during their trip to Europe; they returned home to Memphis exhausted, but in possession of a lifetime of delightful memories and heartwarming stories; and

WHEREAS, during his extensive travels, Christopher has developed a great love for the theater, and especially Broadway shows; he has indulged this passion and broadened his cultural horizons by attending plays in London (including his favorite, *Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theater), New York City and Memphis, where the Persons hold season tickets at the Orpheum Theater; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legion of other accomplishments, Christopher also has extensive legislative experience; in his younger days, he accompanied his father and mother to Capitol Hill on a weekly basis; Christopher and his parents always lived at The Hermitage Hotel, Room 312; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1992, when he was a mere seven years of age, Christopher attained the summit of his legislative career by introducing the late great comic actor Jim Varney to the Tennessee Senate while standing on Senator Person's desk; and

WHEREAS, following in the finest traditions of the Senate, Christopher then accompanied his father to the Well and proudly presented Mr. Varney with a Senate Joint Resolution honoring Mr. Varney's exceptional talent and remarkable career as an actor; and

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Person obviously has amassed numerous accomplishments across many disciplines at a very young age, and he should be recognized by this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Christopher Smith Person on his many remarkable accomplishments in the realms of academics, computer technology, games, travel, theater, and culture, applaud his dedication to the legislative process from a tender age onward, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in what is sure to be a bright future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we take the liberty of wishing Christopher a Happy 18th Birthday on May 28, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the text of this resolution be spread upon the Senate Journal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Christopher S. Person as a token of our esteem.